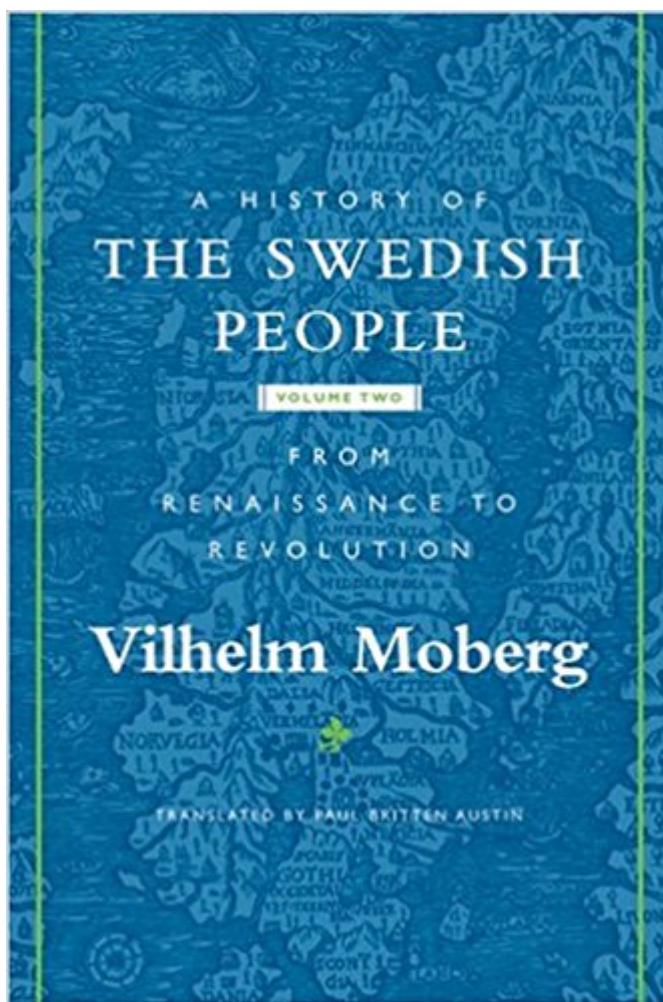


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A History Of The Swedish People: Volume II: From Renaissance To Revolution



Synopsis

In the second volume of his vivid history of the Swedes, Vilhelm Moberg brings his focus on the common people to bear on a period that included two dramatic revolts: the national insurrection under Engelbrekt and the last desperate attempt of the Smaland peasantry to retain their medieval liberties - a defiance bloodily crushed by King Gustav Vasa. Using a wide variety of local historical source materials, Moberg studies the ruthless monarch Vasa and his two tragic opponents: the psychopathic Christian II of Denmark and Nils Dracke, the leader of the Smalanders. Furthermore, he examines the enigmatic and wide appeal of the Swedish forest and investigates the origins of the Swedish hatred of Danes, which was implanted by propaganda through songs commissioned by Karl VIII's chancellery. Moberg's history has been widely hailed by the Swedish press as a masterpiece of popular history writing and has been an all-time best-seller in Swedish bookstores.

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Customer Reviews

A revealing and entertaining account of Sweden's past - now in paperback!

In the second volume of his vivid history of the Swedes, Vilhelm Moberg brings his focus on the common people to bear on a period that included two dramatic revolts: the national insurrection under Engelbrekt and the last desperate attempt of the Smaland peasantry to retain their medieval liberties - a defiance bloodily crushed by King Gustav Vasa. Using a wide variety of local historical source materials, Moberg studies the ruthless monarch Vasa and his two tragic opponents: the psychopathic Christian II of Denmark and Nils Dracke, the leader of the Smalanders. Furthermore,

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I'm new to Swedish history and I love the way Vilhelm addresses it. He keeps the information coming at a fast clip so I never get bored. Plus, it's more focused on the common people, not just the kings and their wars. Plus, Vilhelm has some snark as a narrator, especially when it comes to the antics of the kings. Accurate history AND snark? Yes, please.

There is a great deal of important information in this book, and volume 1. The author honestly warns the reader that the books are written from a socio-anthropological viewpoint. Though the history is interesting, much of the commentary appears to be interpretive. I know the author is well qualified to interpret, but tends to be boring. These books are definitely worth the read, because they are a different view of Swedish history. They will not, however, be my resource for future reference.

If you like Vol. 1, you will love Vol. 2. After visiting with relatives in Sweden, I could easily see why they feel as they do about their political and religious position, after reading these books. Highly recommended.

I really enjoyed reading this book. It is very easy to read and is full of information. It is not a text book but a great book of stories about the history of Sweden.

I purchased this book as, there are so few books on Swedish history. I recently went on a long journey to trace my grandparents roots back there. Now that I've found some of my family back there, I wanted to understand the history. I loved reading Moberg's Immigrant series also.

This book is more factual and will take a while to finish reading. Not a novel for pure enjoyment. Informative.

Again, an extremely important resource for those researching Swedish history, politics and culture. I learned a great deal. Moberg also examines the negative aspects of Swedish history as well as the positive events and culture.

Wilhelm Moberg is an amazing author. I've found all of his works to be insightful and interestingly written. I highly recommend both books that Moberg has written on the history of the Swedish people as well as his series The Emigrants.

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